



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District  
During the year 1968.



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During the year 1968.

# **OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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## **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as at 31st December, 1968)

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W. R. CASHMORE (Chairman)

A. D. COLEMAN

E. COLLINSON

Mrs. P. FISHPOOL

F. M. HAGGER

J. W. B. TAYLOR

H. R. VYSE

E. P. WARD

G. W. WILSON

## **STAFF**

Medical Officer of Health ..... PHILIP V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector ..... L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S.,  
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.  
Barrister-at-Law

Deputy Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.....T.A. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

Trainee Public Health Inspector.....M. A. TIGHE

To The Old Fletton Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FISHPOOL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Eleventh Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December 1968.

The District lies immediately to the south of the City of Peterborough. The main industries are brick-making, sugar manufacture, engineering, food canning and printing.

The Registrar-General estimates that the mid-year population was 13,230, an increase of 290 over the previous year.

There were 238 live births during the year giving a crude birth rate of 18 per thousand population. When adjusted the rate becomes 15·6 per thousand population which is below the rate for England and Wales of 16·9 per thousand.

Three infants under one year of age died during the year, giving an infant mortality rate of 13 per thousand live births. The rate for England and Wales was 18·3 per thousand live births.

There were 120 deaths, 58 males and 62 females. The crude death rate was 9·1 per thousand population, and when adjusted it became 11·9 per thousand, which is the same as the national rate.

The table showing the causes of death is in a different form this year because the Registrar General is now using a special list of fifty causes of death, for classification purposes, as adopted by the World Health Assembly. In the table I have only listed those causes from which at least one person has actually died.

During the year there were four deaths from cancer of the lung or bronchus, and they were all aged over 65 years. During the previous year there had been nine deaths due to this cause. May I again commend to your notice what I wrote regarding this subject in last year's report. Smoking definitely increases a person's chance of developing Cancer of the Lung, and also Chronic Bronchitis and Coronary Heart Disease.

There were 71 cases of Measles during the year, and two new cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs.

The water supply was satisfactory in pressure and quality throughout the year. In October 1968 our water undertaking was amalgamated with the South Lincs. Water Board. We were sorry to see it go, as great interest had been taken in it, and it was well maintained and continually improved right up to the end.



It is to be hoped that in the near future the new Water Board will see fit to fluoridate the supply, which would have a beneficial effect in reducing dental decay in children, and is long overdue. More than 80 million people in North America and Europe now drink fluoridated water.

The Council's scheme for enlarging and altering the sewage works and putting in a system of relief sewers was at the point of completion at the end of the year. Unfortunately, as the result of the record rainfall in July, a small amount of surcharging occurred in a limited area off Whittlesey Road. Steps are being taken to combat this, details of which can be found in the Surveyor's report.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff, and my Professional Colleagues in the District, for their help during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1968) .....	13,230
Density of persons per acre .....	4.4
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1968 .....	4,282
Rateable Value, 31/12/68 .....	£636,407
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/68 .....	£2,485

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births .....	238
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .....	18
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .....	7.6
Still-births .....	6
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births .....	25
Total live and still-births .....	244
Infant deaths .....	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total .....	13
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births .....	29
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .....	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births .....	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population .....	9.1

INFANT DEATHS

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Actual Number of Deaths	2	3	2	4	5	3
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	8.9	11.8	8.9	15.2	20	13
Deaths from Cancer (total) .....						32
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus .....						4
Ischaemic Heart Disease .....						32
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....						3

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	18.0	15.6	9.1	11.9	13	25
England & Wales	—	16.9	—	11.9	18.3	14.3

Comparability Factor for Births .....	0.87
Comparability Factor for Deaths .....	1.31

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
Malignant neoplasm—Stomach	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm,—Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm,—Breast	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm,—Uterus	—	1	1
Leukaemia	2	1	3
Other malignant neoplasms	10	9	19
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	—	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	—	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	3	1	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	18	32
Other forms of Heart Disease	1	2	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	2	12	14
Other diseases of Circulatory system	2	4	6
Pneumonia	6	3	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	1	6
Asthma	2	—	2
Other diseases of Respiratory system	—	1	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	—	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
	58	62	120



The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1968.

Total Deaths.																			
Cases admitted to Hospital																			
65 & upwards																			
45 — 65																			
35 — 45																			
20 — 35																			
15 — 20			1																
10 — 15							2												
5 — 10			3				21	5											
4 — 5							12												
3 — 4			1				11												
2 — 3							13	1											
1 — 2							9	1											
under 1 year							3												
TOTAL			5				71	7											
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Meningococcal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

## Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Child Health Centre,  
Whittlesey Road,  
Stanground,  
Nr. Peterborough.  
Tel. Peterborough 68010

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir, I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1968:

The Council's housing effort during the year was concentrated on a site between Coneygree Road and Thistle Drive. This contained eighty dwellings including a flat with shop below, six bungalows and eight flats for the elderly. The contract required that the latter units should be completed first in view of the continuing demand for housing for the elderly. This demand, which is of course being experienced nationally, means that our housing waiting lists have assumed a character very different from that to which we were accustomed in the early post-war years. At that time attention was centred upon the provision of housing for families, and of course this is still needed in many parts of the country. Here, however, the waiting lists for this type of accommodation have shrunk to quite small proportions compared with that for elderly persons' units. I first drew attention to this in my report for 1965, and have referred to it annually since then.

The lessening need for conventional housing, coupled with the increase in rates of interest, caused the Council to give further consideration to their proposed estate for 220 dwellings off Bakers Lane, Woodston. It was hoped that whatever arrangements might finally be made it will be possible for us to retain a substantial number of dwellings for the elderly.

Investigations are being made into the possibility of utilising a form of pre-fabricated construction for elderly persons bungalows on small separated sites. Although these would have traditional brick cladding, they would represent a first move into the field of pre-fabrication by the Council, in a form where it is felt this method might be particularly useful.

An alternative form of central heating was introduced during the year on the Thistle Drive estate. This relied on convected warm air from a central chamber containing a heat transfer unit fired by oil. The same unit also provides domestic hot water. An unusual feature so far as this district is concerned, is that all oil is centrally stored and is distributed by individual pipes to each house through separate meters. This means that each person's expenditure is under his own control, whilst at the same time the benefits of bulk fuel purchase are obtained. The division of this estate between gas and oil should enable useful comparisons to be made both as to running and maintenance costs.

Forty-nine applications for Standard Improvement Grants were approved by the Council, an increase of 19 over 1968, and payments totalled £3,401. These continued to be centred in those terraces constructed around 1900 which are still structurally sound enough to warrant this expenditure.



Twenty-one valuations were made in connection with mortgage applications during the year, almost the same as for last year. The shortage of money for this purpose again led to a rush of applications in April and May which fell to a trickle towards the end of the year. The number of Council houses sold to sitting tenants fell from nine to three, and here again it is probable that mortgage difficulties were the cause.

There was a reduction in the number of private house completions from 64 to 43 and your Council house completions also fell from 53 to 32 resulting in a total of 75 completions as against 117 at which it had remained steady for the previous two years.

I regret to report that the Stanground Housing Society has continued to be beset by administrative and costing delays so that actual construction has not yet commenced. I still feel, however, that there is a future for this type of housing, and I hope very much that we shall see a start made during the next year.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	1672
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	1815
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	54

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants .....	54
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil



(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ..... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... Nil

(C) Proceedings under Section 42 Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

CLEARANCE AREAS

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year 1

(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above ..... 5

(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation ..... 5

(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. .... Nil

(5) Number of families displaced during the year ..... 1

(6) Number of houses demolished during the year ..... 12

(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act 1957.

(1) Houses made subject to closing Orders. .... Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE

The 12 dwellings comprising Coneygree Road No. 12 Clearance Area were demolished during the year. South Street Clearance Order No. 13 was submitted for confirmation and no objections to this are expected. Individual Demolition Order procedure was completed in the case of one premises and commenced in respect of four others. The Council has been able to provide re-housing without difficulty in view of the favourable state of the housing waiting list.

Slum Clearance in an area such as this is very different to that carried out in the old industrial cities of the North and Midlands where very large areas can be dealt with at the same time. Here the few unfit houses we have are in small separate pockets often adjacent to modern dwellings. The Council's policy is to acquire these sites for the erection of elderly persons dwellings of the type described above, thus helping to reduce the waiting list and keeping the displaced older persons in the district with which they are familiar.

WATER

In October 1968 the Council's water undertaking, together with those of neighbouring local authorities, was amalgamated with an expanded South Lincolnshire Water Board, on which the Council have two representatives. Whilst the need to reinforce the finances of rural areas having long mains and low monetary resources is realised, it is difficult to see what, if any, benefits will result to the Urban District, and there is no doubt that the equalisation of charges will mean higher

water rates for our citizens. Suffice to say that we handed over an undertaking distributing over one million gallons per day, which was in first class order both technically and in the pressure and purity of water supplied, and one in which the Council took justifiable pride.

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

By the end of the year S.D. Contract No. 8 was virtually completed, the heated digestion tank being within days of commencing operation. The new rectangular filter was beset with difficulties involving the running tracks and the haulage rope. Sufficient had been learnt, however, to indicate that with all units in full operation it should be possible to reach a Royal Commission Standard of effluent. So long is the interval, however, between the need for extensions becoming apparent and the time when such extensions are built that it is not too soon, even now, for a critical observation to be kept on the volume of sewage having to be treated due to the rapid expansion of housing and industry, not only in this district but in those major parishes of Norman Cross Rural District Council where new housing is being erected at a continually high rate. Your consultants had indicated that particular observation would have to be kept on the capacity of the sewer along Whittlesey Road following completion of the relief sewers contained in Contract 8, and as a result of the record rainfalls experienced in July of this year, it became clear that relief facilities for this length would have to be put in hand. In advance of this your Officers and Consultants had had preliminary meetings between themselves and Norman Cross Rural District Council with a view to making use of a relief sewer which the latter authority were committed to for the sewerage of Folksworth, together with the increasing flows from Yaxley and Farcet. Further meetings between members confirmed that this would be a sensible and economical use of facilities at a minimum cost to the Urban District, with corresponding relief to the Rural District. An engineering enquiry was held during the year as a result of which general approval was given to the proposals. The preparation of relevant drawings and documents for the whole scheme is now being carried out by the two authorities joint Consultants.

## **REFUSE DISPOSAL**

Bulk containers have been installed in a number of additional premises to those previously supplied, including a new school, and it is hoped that the advantages of this type of storage will become more widely appreciated by users, with corresponding advantages to our rate of collection. Generally speaking the weekly collection has been maintained, but this has unavoidably fallen into arrears at holiday times especially where these have been accentuated by staff sickness. The bulky refuse collection system has continued to operate and has been widely appreciated by our ratepayers. It has, of course, had to be temporarily stopped from time to time in order to catch up on arrears which have accumulated due to the causes mentioned above, but has been resumed as soon as possible thereafter. Negotiations which were



in progress last year to provide a tipping site within the district have been successful, a contract for the use of part of the Orton pit being entered into with the London Brick Company after planning consent had been obtained from the County Council. The site is not without some disadvantages being broken up into a series of parallel valleys by the method of stacking unwanted overburden in vogue at the time these pits were excavated, and the approach road to the tip is longer than we would have liked. These have shown the necessity of obtaining a tracked bulldozer both for access and tip maintenance as this is really beyond the power of the sewage works tractor now being used at the end of each working day. It has, however, reduced the amount of time vehicles are out of the district and given us control over our own working days and hours which otherwise were at the discretion of the tip authority where disposal formerly took place.

**STREET SWEEPING**

No emergency snow clearing was required during the year. Cleaning continued to be carried out by the vacuum cleaning lorry and the vacuum pavement sweeper with a total staff of three full and one part time street orderly. Gully cleansing was performed on three occasions during the year throughout the district by a contractor, with reimbursement by the County Council for this service on county roads.

**FOOD AND DRUGS**

During the year 1 cwt 95 lb of cooked meat and meat products and 2 cwt 15 lb of other foods were condemned. Most of this food was condemned following the breakdown of deep freezers in various shops in the district, and is indicative of the modern method of retailing food. Most shops carry large stocks of frozen food and it can be expected that these figures will increase from year to year.

There was little change in the composition of the food trades represented in the District which are:

Hotels .. ..	1
Bakehouses .. ..	1
Works Canteens ..	5
School Kitchens ..	4
Fried Fish .. ..	7
Butchers .. ..	6
Grocery .. ..	34
Licensed Premises ..	13
<hr/>	
Total ..	71
<hr/>	

The premises comply with the requirements of Sections 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

**OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963**

At the end of 1968 there were 40 premises within the Urban District which were covered by the above Act. Briefly speaking, the Act covers any office or shop where a person, not of the immediate family of the owner, is employed for more than 21 hours per week. In addition to the 40 quoted above there were other premises covered by the Act where action was enforceable by the Inspector of Factories.

Altogether there are 521 persons employed in registered premises within the District. Fourteen contraventions of the Act were found on inspection, and all were dealt with informally.

**PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS**

One new premises was licensed during the year this being for the Eastern Electricity Board at their new depot off Shrewsbury Avenue. The number of licensed installations now is 25.

**RODENT CONTROL**

There was again a considerable number of minor infestations reported during the year. All were treated with Warfarin, no report of resistance to this poison yet having been received for our area, although this factor is now seriously prejudicing its use in certain parts of the country. Liquid Warfarin was successfully used for the first time to combat an infestation in the ducting of a local factory.

**CLEAN AIR ACT 1956**

Two further smoke control areas were confirmed during the year covering a new Council estate off Coneygree Road and land off Baker's Lane. These will eventually include some 300 dwellings.

**NUISANCES.**

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	71
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

**DISINFESTATION.**

**Rats and Mice**

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109



INFECTIOUS DISEASES—		VISITS AND DISINFECTION			
Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
No. of Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
Premises disinfected :—	(a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	Nil
	(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	1
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

**Common Lodging Houses.**

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

**Factories Act 1961**

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	25	5	Nil	Nil
Other Premises,	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found		Nil		

**Outworkers.** There are no outworkers in the District.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

L. DEARDEN,  
*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.*





